



STATE SENATOR

KEN SIKKEMA

CAPITOL FAX

Friday, January 24, 2003

SB 1 CONSIDERED BY TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY COMMITTEE

The Senate Technology and Energy Committee on January 22 began consideration of Senate Bill 1, sponsored by Senator Gerald Van Woerkom, R-Muskegon. The bill would require telephone companies to have their End User Common Line (EUCL) charge approved by the Michigan Public Service Commission. All phone lines in Michigan, residential and business, are currently subject to a EUCL charge. As introduced, the legislation would apply to local telephone service providers with more than 250,000 customers, or Michigan's four major providers: SBC, Verizon, AT&T, and MCI Worldcom. These providers made a combined total of almost \$200 million in revenue last year on the EUCL charge billed to consumers.

RESOLUTION BANNING OUT-OF-STATE WASTE INTRODUCED

Senator Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, this week introduced Senate Resolution 4, to urge Congress to amend federal law and grant states the authority to ban the dumping of out-of-state solid waste. In 1992, a United States Supreme Court ruling declared that Congress alone has the authority to regulate interstate commerce. Since that time, Michigan landfills have been forced to accept fifteen percent of trash from Canada and other states. The resolution addresses the threat landfill's pose to natural resources and the long-term commitment of our state to monitor landfill sites to protect the water quality and health of Michigan citizens. The resolution has been sent to the Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee for consideration.

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO REFORM CAMPAIGN CALLS

Senate Bill 3, sponsored by Senator Tony Stamas, R-Midland, was recently introduced to require all telephone calls made regarding an election or an election candidate to clearly identify the party authorizing the communication. If the phone call was not authorized in writing by a candidate's campaign committee, the phone call must clearly state the "not authorized by a candidate committee" disclaimer. If a person related to the candidate paid for the phone call, the caller must clearly state the "authorized by (name of candidate or name of candidate committee)." SB 3 was referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor.

The *Capitol Fax* by Senator Ken Sikkema is designed to provide residents and organizations with a timely update of legislative activity in Lansing. If you have any questions, do not wish to receive this fax, or would like to receive this via e-mail, please contact Senator Sikkema's office.

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